

Five Reasons You Should Get Involved in Long Hill Township's Master Plan



Group Presentations from the 2007 Valley Road 2020 Future Search Conference

The Master Plan shapes the future of the next 10 years for Long Hill Township. It defines goals and recommendations for what our town looks like, what makes our town attractive to existing and new residents and businesses, how we handle the challenges we face — in other words, who we are and will become as a community. The Master Plan is our plan; it takes our effort to create it.

The last comprehensive Master Plan for Long Hill Township was adopted in 1996. While the Planning Board in 2003 and 2013 reviewed the plan, as the law requires, we haven't had an in-depth, comprehensive examination of who we are and where we want to get to in 20 years.

Why you should get involved

1. Most people in Long Hill Township love the township just the way it is — as described in the 1996 Master Plan: "In many ways, Long Hill Township is a rural oasis in a region otherwise dominated by suburban residential tract development, highway commercial uses, and interstate highways." But preserving what you love is not something you can ever assume or delegate to someone else — it takes commitment.
2. Long Hill Township today, and Morris County, and the United States, and the world, are different — in some ways drastically different — that what we experienced and took for granted 20 years ago. We may not like change; that doesn't stop it from happening. And the old principle still applies:

living things, and businesses, and societies, that don't adapt to change become extinct. In today's world, ensuring the sustainability of Long Hill Township has become a priority. The Master Plan outlines how we as a community intend to do that.

3. It's too big a job for the normal functions of government to handle. The Planning Board is charged by law with creating the Master Plan. They are volunteers who put in long hours serving Long Hill Township. Like you, they have personal, family and professional demands on their time. Their agenda— *without* the Master Plan — is jammed. The same is true of the Master Plan Committee that is preparing the drafts of the plan for their Planning Board to consider. We need your involvement.
4. The Master Plan is a community document. The better the public involvement, the better the Master Plan. The 1996 plan was based on survey responses from close to 1,000 households across the township, recommendations from seven open public meetings conducted by Friends of Long Hill Township on future goals for Long Hill Township, and public Planning Board meetings to discuss and receive feedback on the proposed plan.
5. It's easy for you to participate, at whatever level of involvement you feel comfortable with. Your source for getting involved is the Master Plan Committee's page on the township website:
<http://www.longhillnj.gov/PB/MPC.html>.
 - You can become better informed by reading the frequent posts that will highlight critical issues the new Master Plan has to deal with.
 - You can participate in the on-line survey that will be posted on the Master Plan Committee web page in the coming weeks.
 - You can participate in the Future Search Conference for Long Hill Township planned for April. Details will be forthcoming on the Master Plan Committee web page.
 - You can participate in the Planning Board's public hearings on the Master Plan held later this year. The schedule for these hearings will be available on the Planning Board website page, <http://www.longhillnj.gov/PB/pb-agendas-minutes.html>

Tom Behr
Chairman, Long Hill Township Master Plan Committee